



Roles of Member States and European Institutions in Case of Crisis

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Summary

- Legal background
- Role of the European Institutions and Member States
- Examples

Legal background

□ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

- Art. 55 General plan for food/feed crisis management: ... where risks to human health not likely to be adequately managed solely by way of application of emergency measures...

□ Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

- Art. 4 Competent authorities: ...shall ensure that they have contingency plans

□ Commission Decision 2004/478/EC

- General plan for food/feed crisis management

Outbreak investigations

Assessment

ECDC: human data, inquiries, advice for treatment

EFSA: food/animal data, Consumers' advice, investigation to source

Joint risk assessment

Management

SANCO: Based on assessment: measures, trade restrictions, negotiations with third countries

Techn. support

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EURL: analytical methods, molecular testing

EWRS

RASFF

EURL-NRL
network

Member States' bodies

Role of European Institutions

- Ensure that competent authority of the MS concerned takes the necessary measures
- Assessment of the measures
- Ensure that competent authorities provide the necessary information through the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF)
- If need be, can take a safeguard measure to protect public health

Role of European Commission

- ❑ Information to Third Countries
- ❑ Assist the competent authority in the management of the situation
- ❑ Provide recommendations to ensure a uniform enforcement approach
 - guidelines
 - important role of EFSA (public health aspect) and ECDC
 - role of EURL (analytical aspects)
- ❑ guarantees to third countries: to enable them to lift the measures
- ❑ Lessons to be learned

Examples

BSE crisis (1996-2003)

- *2 peaks:*
 - **1996: BSE is transmissible to humans**
 - **2000: rapid tests implemented= more cases detected**
- *Loss of consumer confidence, drop in meat consumption, huge economic impact*
- *Wide political consequences: creation of DG SANCO then EFSA*

***E. Coli* outbreak: May-July 2011 actions**

➤ ***COMMISSION***

- Coordination
- Assistance: EURL, EFSA, ECDC
- Legal acts
- Audit / inspections

➤ ***MEMBER STATES***

- Epidemiological investigations
- Treatment of cases

➤ ***JOINT: Communication / Information***

Dioxin/PCB incident in Belgium - 1999

- *Small scale incident / huge economic consequences*
- *Increase the safety of feed and food in the EU as regards dioxins significantly*
- *Measures following the Belgian contamination incident:*
 - *setting maximum levels for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in a wide range of feed and food*
 - *Setting action levels (lower than maximum levels) triggering investigations*
 - *Setting performance criteria for the methods*
 - *Creation of an EURL for dioxins and PCBs*

Dioxin incident in Germany – December 2010

- *Measures applicable as from 16 September 2012:*
 - *approval of certain feed business operators (fats and oils)*
 - *segregation of the products for technical use from those for feed and food.*
 - *mandatory dioxin monitoring of high risk products (fats and oils),*
 - *laboratories to report positive results on dioxins to the competent authorities*

Melamine in feed and food from China

- *15/09/2008 press reports: presence of melamine in infant formula*
- *19/09/2008: request to EFSA for urgent scientific advice assessment*
- *24/09/ 2008 EFSA statement on melamine: children with high daily consumption of milk toffee, chocolate or biscuits containing high levels of milk powder would exceed the TDI.*
- *25/09/2008: meeting with Member States*
- *26/09/2008: Commission adopts emergency measures:*
 - *Ban on all products originating from China for infants and young children containing milk or milk products*
 - *Impose 100 % testing on all imported feed and food from China containing milk and milk powder and random testing on such products already on the EU market*

Communication during outbreaks

Verification of information by CA essential even if slowing down transmission: fully respected by RASFF and EWRS during crisis
Backed by sound scientific advice or risk assessment

Involvement of communicators to assess and anticipate possible reactions of press/general public

Advanced announcement to all parties involved

Development of iRASFF online platform to increase speed, availability and interactivity of information.

Example of good cooperation/communication: BSE case in goat in FR (2004-2005)

*First case of BSE detected in goat under natural conditions in
October 2004 by French researchers*

*Early, convergent and simultaneous communication (press
releases) from Commission and French CA on this case*

Harmonised management measures backed by EFSA advice

*Consequence: no media storm and no subsequent negative
reaction of the public opinion*

***Thank you
for your
attention!***